

REMARKS

I. Introduction

Claims 1-20 are pending on the application. In the Office Action dated March 8, 2007, the Examiner rejected claims 1-20 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Pat. No. 6,215,857 ("Kasiviswanathan") in view of U.S. Pat. No. 5,278,897 ("Mowery"). Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection to the claims

II. The Proposed Combination of Kasiviswanathan and Mowery Does Not Render Claim 1 Unpatentable

Independent claim 1 recites a supplementary service processor operative to generate a query to a supplementary service database to determine whether the central office switch supports a supplementary service and to determine whether a user has access to a voicemail service. Both Kasiviswanathan and Mowery fail to teach this element.

The Examiner has admitted that Kasiviswanathan fails to disclose generating a query to a supplementary database to determine both whether a central office switch supports a supplementary service and whether a user has access to voicemail service. (See Office Action dated Nov. 15, 2006, page 4). Like Kasiviswanathan, Mowery also fails to teach the element. Mowery is directed to systems and methods for providing smart internodal transfer for subscriber access in multimode voice messaging. Mowery discloses a database to provide information regarding whether an accessed node is a home node for a subscriber, to provide password validation information, and to provide subscriber information such as subscriber mailbox information and subscriber accesses type.

In the Office Action, it is asserted that Mowery teaches determining whether a user has access to a voicemail service based on a caller identifier. Applicants respectfully submit that determining whether a user has access to a voicemail service based on a caller identifier is not the same as generating a query to a supplementary database to determine both whether a central office switch supports a supplementary service and whether a user has access to voicemail service.

Because both Kasiviswanathan and Mowery fail to teach generating a query to a supplementary service database to determine whether the central office switch supports a supplementary service and to determine whether a user has access to a voicemail service, the proposed combination of Kasiviswanathan and Mowery necessarily does not render independent claim 1, or any claim that depends on claim 1, unpatentable.

III. The Proposed Combination of Kasiviswanathan and Mowery Does Not Render Claim 11 Unpatentable

Independent claim 11 recites determining whether a central office switch supports a supplementary service based on a message sequence and a supplementary service database, and determining whether a user has access to a voicemail service based on a caller identifier and the supplementary service database. Kasiviswanathan and Mowery fail to teach a database to determine both whether a central office supports a supplementary service and whether a user has access to a voicemail service. For at least this reason, the proposed combination of Kasiviswanathan and Mowery necessary does not render independent claim 11, or any claim that depends on claim 11, unpatentable.

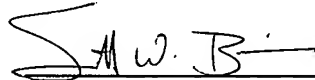
IV. The Proposed Combination of Kasiviswanathan and Mowery Does Not Render Claim 16 Unpatentable

Independent claim 16 recites generating a query to a supplementary service database in response to receiving a message sequence to determine whether the central office switch supports a supplementary service based on whether a service code is present in the n-digit message sequence and to determine whether the user has access to the voicemail service based on a caller identifier. Kasiviswanathan and Mowery fail to teach a database to determine both whether a central office supports a supplementary service and whether a user has access to a voicemail service. For at least this reason, the proposed combination of Kasiviswanathan and Mowery necessary does not render independent claim 16, or any claim that depends on claim 16, unpatentable.

V. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicants submit that the pending claims are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration is therefore respectfully requested. If there are any questions concerning this Amendment, the Examiner is asked to phone the undersigned attorney at (312) 321-4200.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "S. W. Brim", written over a horizontal line.

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